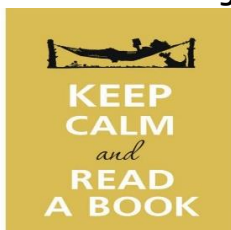


8th Grade Summer Reading Guidelines



(Regular and Pre-AP ELA)

Welcome to 8th grade! Our goal for summer reading is that first you enjoy a good book, but it is also to keep your ELA skills active! If you have chosen and bought a book already, see below on **genre specific guidelines**.

Students who are taking **Regular ELA** choose 1 from the following:

All the Broken Pieces by Ann E. Burg (Historical Fiction)

Rebel Mechanics by Shanna Swendsen (Historical Fiction)

Students taking **Pre-AP ELA** will read the 2 selections below:

The Hammer of Thor (Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard, #2) by Rick Riordan (Adventure/Mythology)

Gifted Hands by Ben Carson (Nonfiction)

You will be assessed over the summer reading within the first few weeks of school. Choosing not to read will affect your grade, so be sure to read! For all texts, we highly recommend you annotate—to highlight or underline these passages AND to make critical comments/notes as to why you underlined them. **Quality of your annotations is more important than quantity**; for example, depending on your chapter, **2 high quality critical annotations per chapter will benefit you for an assessment**. You will be able to apply your annotations for all assessments when you get back in August.

Helpful Guidelines for Genre Specific Annotations

Any Fiction:

As you read, consider only **one of two areas of topic/ questions to respond to in your annotations**:

- When you are reading, make sure that you pay particular attention to the different **conflicts** that are present throughout the book. **Keep track of these conflicts**; make some notes about which characters are involved with the specific conflicts and why the conflicts occur. **Make connections on how the characters might grow due to these conflicts. Annotate for theme statements** that show character growth. Take some time to reflect and **make text to self and other cross connections (text to text)** with these themes, and how they can relate to the present in our own world today (**text to world**).
- When you are reading, pay particular attention to specific **character traits (positive and negative attributes)**. What drives them to do the things that they do, and how do others forces/aspects, characters influence them? Additionally, pay attention to specific **instances of symbolism** throughout the novel. Make sure you **relate the symbolism to theme statements** that evolve. How does the symbolism connect back to your main character's journey?

Any Nonfiction:

As you closely read, consider the following topics and questions to respond to in your annotations:

- Track your main character's conflicts in this memoir/biography. How do these obstacles/conflicts start to change him (positively, negatively)? Why? How?
- Make any nonfiction cross connections as you read (i.e. science/medicine, obtaining a higher degree/university requirements, Harlem, NY at the time, world events, his strong Christian faith).
- How do these connect to the character(s) and obstacles due to the setting, author's background, and religion/faith?
- What theme statements are prevalent due to character's growth and change/ maturity?